REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. In the above referenced Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4 - 8, and 10 under 35 USC § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Ruppert (U.S. Patent No. 5,424,524). In addition, the Examiner objected to claims 3 and 9 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. These rejections and objections have been traversed and, as such, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the allowability of claims 1 - 10.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4 - 8, and 10 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Ruppert. In particular, the Examiner stated, in part, that Ruppert teaches a computer peripheral device (See figure 1), comprising: circuitry to perform a computer peripheral function; RS232 cable that provides a connection to a computer; and IR transceiver operably coupled to the RS232 cable. Ruppert does not expressly teach USB cable and USB hub for data communication but Ruppert further added any communication interface could be selected for communication. The applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of the present claimed invention in view of the prior art cited.

As amended, claim 1 includes circuitry to perform a computer peripheral function, a USB cable, and a USB/IR transceiver. As is further claimed, the USB/IR transceiver

is operably coupled to the USB cable and to provide infrared transmissions with peripheral devices, wherein at least one of the circuitry and the USB/IR transceiver is actively coupled to the computer via the USB cable. As claimed, the computer peripheral device of claim 1 includes a cable to connect to the computer and a USB/IR transceiver to enable another peripheral device to communicate with the computer. As such, two or more peripheral devices may communicate with the computer via the USB cable: one peripheral device being the circuitry in the device and the other via the USB/IR transceiver. (See page 1, lines 28 and 29, of present patent application regarding the USB/IR transceiver functionality.)

In contrast, Ruppert teaches having one peripheral device that may interface with a computer in a variety of ways. As cited by the Examiner, Ruppert teaches that, at column 6, lines 1 - 5, the price list is downloaded by the handheld scanner ... [which] can be done by a direct connection to the store's computer via an RS232 port. As further cited by the Examiner, Ruppert teaches that, at column 8, lines 21 - 27, the store's current price list can be [retrieved] in any one of several ways using a data communication interface port 85 in FIG. 3. In some embodiments, the data communication interface and port is a modem and a serial or parallel bidirectional data port with appropriate driver circuitry and software. In other embodiments, the data communication interface and port is an infrared transceiver ...

As is known in the art, an RS232 port is a parallel port. Thus, these sections of Ruppert are teaches the same

thing, that being having one interface, which could be implemented in a variety of ways, to couple the peripheral device to a computer. These sections of Ruppert do not teach or suggest having two interfacing devices, i.e., a USB/IR transceiver and a USB cable, as is presently claimed.

Further, Ruppert does not teach or suggest having a USB/IR transceiver to enable the computer to communicate with another peripheral device. The various communication medium options presented by Ruppert are all for communication between the store's computer and the scanner. In contrast, the presently claimed peripheral device includes circuitry of a peripheral device function (e.g., a mouse, keyboard, etc.) that can communication with the computer through the USB cable and not through the USB/IR transceiver. The USB/IR transceiver, instead, provides connectivity for another peripheral device to the computer.

Therefore, since Ruppert does not teach or suggest having two interfacing devices and further does not teach or suggest having two or more peripheral devices communicating through a USB cable with a computer, the applicant believes that claims 1, 2, 4 - 8, and 10 overcome the present rejection.

3. Claims 3 and 9 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Since the base claims have been shown to be allowable, the applicant believes that the present objection has been overcome.

4. For the foregoing reasons, the applicant believes that claims 1 - 10 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they be passed to allowance.

5. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or facsimile if the Examiner believes that such a communication would advance the prosecution of the present invention.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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37 C.F.R 1.8

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